Legion Hall Product Of Lith Labor-Money Dedicated With Bang

Literally with a bang, in fact, with a whole series of bangs, the Darius-Girenas Memorial building was formally dedicated Sept. 22.

The bangs referred to were those of the Darius-Girenas Drum and Bugle corps, the junior corps of the Lithuanian American Legion Post, and other Legion outfits which gathered to help punctuate and celebrate the notable event.

Justifiably proud are the Legionnaires and all Chicago Lithuanians because the new building, now about a year old, is a "home made" job which rivals the efforts of professionals. It was built with donations of money from Lithuanian clubs and individuals, with the brawn and sweat of Lithuanian backs.

Club Rooms Ready.

The impatiently awaited club rooms in the basement level of the building have also been completed. Walls are panelled more than half way up with beautiful natural knotty white pine. Soft pastel shades grace the walls and ceilings. A modern bar, cafe tables, dancing space, besides a honeycomb of rooms for club use, complete the picture of basement facilities, not to mention a modern sitting room, lavatories, etc.

World War I Tank.

After a few speeches and a resounding parade, Legionnaires and friends gathered at the new bar and tables to discuss this new achievement, while the kids seemed to prefer the outside— probably because there was a fascinating World War I tank in front of the building.

While the kids clambered all over this tank, loaned to the Post by the American Army, clusters of old-world Lithuanians stood around it in serious conversation. They nodded or shook their heads vigorously, pointed at the tank, gesticulated for accent, and seemed generally to be enjoying themselves in serious conjectures.

Lithuanians!

This was the picture of the Darius-Girenas Memorial hall dedication as this writer saw it. A picture of hard-working, imaginative and creative Lithuanians, their families, their pleasures, their ambitions.

A. A. S.

AMERICAN LEGION
DARIUS-GIRENAS
POST No. 271
JUNIOR
DRUM AND BUGLE
CORPS

Presents

COOK COUNTY
COUNCIL

American Legion
Auxiliary

1940 - 1941

Irene Petkiewicz

Juniors:
Dorothy Mason
Helen Saimin
Joyce Mason
Marion Nares

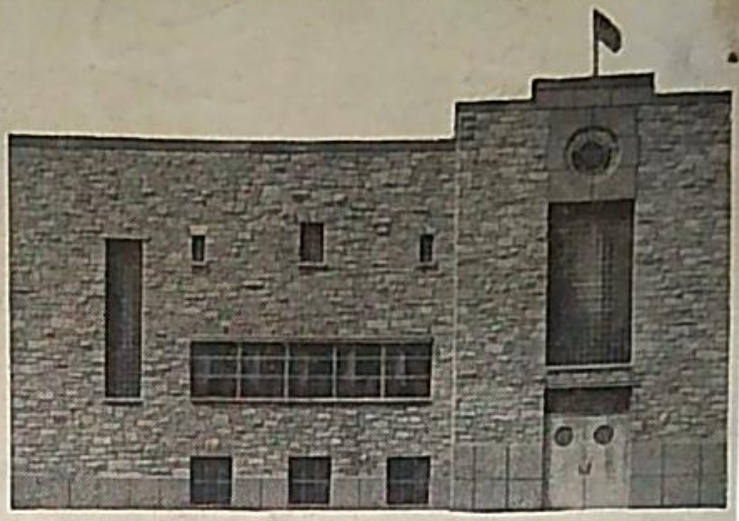
Darius - Girenas Post No. 271

AMERICAN LEGION

4416-20 SOUTH WESTERN AVENUE

PHONE LAFayette 8484

CHICAGO



BRIEF OUTLINE OF HISTORY OF DARIUS-GIRENAS POST NO. 271

The Darius-Girenas Post No. 271, American Legion was organized November 19, 1932. The original name of this post was Lt. S. J. Harris, Post No. 271, named in memory of this American officer who lost his life in Lithuania during the struggle for her independence. The Posts first commander was Joseph A. Mickeliunas.

The year of 1933 was the darkest in the Posts history. Two noted fliers, Stephen Darius and Stanley Girenas, members of Lt. S. J. Harris Post No. 271, lost their lives in Solden, Germany, during a Trans-Atlantic non-stop flight from the United States to Kaunas, Lithuania, within four hundred miles of their goal.

In Memory of these two heroic members, the name of Lt. S. J. Harris Post No. 271 was changed to Darius-Girenas Post No. 271.

During the short period of years, this Post has accomplished much. It helped financially and morally to build a monument in memory of the fliers, in Marquette Park, Chicago. The year of 1939 reached the climax of the Posts activities and accomplishments. Under the able leadership of Commander William B. Sebastian, and Past Commander and bldg. committee Chairman, Barney R. Pietkiewicz, the Post undertook to build a home as a memorial building for Stephen Darius and Stanley Girenas and as a home of American Legion, that every legionnaire of this Post is proud of, located at 4416 South Western Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

This is only a part of the accomplishments of the Darius-Girenas Post during a short period of time. As legionnaires, their service to the community and the nation is also noted. Disabled and needy comrades also are remembered by this Post, and assistance is given where assistance is necessary.

The present Post commander is Anthony H. Kasper, the president of the Women's Auxiliary is Irene Pietkiewicz, Rehabilitation Chairman, Mrs. Helen Lukas, Service Officer, M. Massey.

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The members of this evenings Entertainment Committee:

A. H. Kasper, Commander
M. Massey
Jos. A. Mickeliunas
Wm. Kareiva